

*-Terry*  
Bede Otto House  
Mickleton, Gloucester County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Bodo Otto House  
Mickleton, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Owner: Alfred R. Kohler

Date of Erection: Before 1771

Architect:

Builder: William Scull (probable)

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

The land upon which the Bodo Otto house stands was prior to 1688 the property of Thomas Scholey. On March 26, 1688 (Old style) Thomas Scholey conveyed the land by deed to Nicholas Young. The property passed by will to Young's son, Joseph, who by will dated May 20, 1749 (Old style), conveyed it to his daughter Amey. In the same will, the land was ordered sold and the money divided equally among

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his five daughters. The daughters conveyed the land by deed to Benjamin Lodge, who in turn sold it to William Scull on June 23, 1766. Scull probably built the house. The property was seized by the High Sheriff, Thomas Denny, who conveyed it by deed dated August 1, 1772 to Bodo Otto, Jr., who had rented the property prior to March 1, 1771. Scull had advertised the property in 1771 as follows:

"A certain tract of land now in the tenure of Dr. Otto, situated on Salem Road and on Repaupercreek in Greenwich Township, in the County of Gloucester, West New Jersey, about two miles below Mantua-creek bridge and fifteen miles from the City of Philadelphia, on which is erected a noat stone dwelling house, two stories high, thirty-five front, and twenty feet deep and a stone kitchen eighteen feet by thirteen with a chamber over the kitchen: a well of excellent water by the house, a good orchard, about twenty acres of meadows are made or may be made on said tract and several constant streams running through the land containing in the whole one hundred acres."

Bodo Otto, Jr. was born in Hanover, Germany, on September 14, 1748. He was brought to this country by his father in 1752. Bodo, Jr. first studied medicine with his father, who was a doctor. In 1771 he received a degree of the Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. He married Catherine Schweighauser at Philadelphia on February 6, 1772. After his marriage he left Philadelphia and returned to his home in Mickleton where he started to practice.

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On July 24, 1776, Bodo, Jr. received the appointment of surgeon to Colonel Reed's Battalion. Along with his father, and his brother, Dr. John Otto, he spent the whole long winter at Valley Forge with Washington.

In March, 1778, when his wife and children were home alone, Otto's house was burned by British sympathizers; after this, the family moved to Swedesboro.

On March 31, 1779 he was elected a representative from Gloucester County to the General Assembly.

Bodo Otto died on January 20, 1782 and is buried in the churchyard of Trinity Church in Swedesboro (NJ-85).

His property was divided among his children. On March 27, 1796, Catherine and John Bodo with John Wilkins and Andrew Hunter acting as guardians for the two younger children, Jacob and Daniel, sold the property to Samuel Tonkin. Tonkin rebuilt the house, the heavy stone walls having not been burned. The house was accidentally burned again in 1818 and the Tonkins again rebuilt it.

#### Bibliography:

Nelson, William Extracts from American Newspapers 1770-1771 Paterson, The Press Printing and Publishing Company, 1904 (Archives of the State of New Jersey, First Series XXVII)

Stewart, F.H. (editor and compiler) Notes on Old Gloucester County, New Jersey Historical records published by the New Jersey Society of Pennsylvania, Volume I

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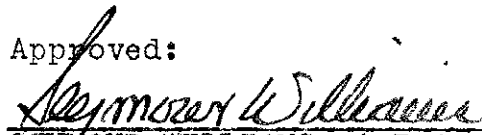
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Court records searched by  
O. F. Benjamin

Material collected by Elizabeth  
and Frances Moffett

  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

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